



PROFILE OF ALHAJA SELIMOT OLAPEJU OTTUN

Alhaja Selimot Olapeju Ottun (Nee Awonuga) was born in Ibadan, Oyo State to the family of Alhaji and Alhaja Abdul-Hamid Awonuga of Ikenne Remo on 4th November, 1961.

Selimot attended Abadina Primary School, University of Ibadan between 1968 and 1973. She then proceeded to the prestigious Remo Secondary School Sagamu between 1973 and 1978 for her West African School Certificate and Advanced Level Certificate between 1980 and 1982. She later gained admission into the premier university, University of Ibadan, graduating in 1985 with a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology.

In 1985, Selimot obeyed the clarion call, completing the one year mandatory National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) at Esie-Oro Community Grammar School, Irepodun Local Government Area of Kwara State. After her NYSC in 1986, she worked briefly with Lions Club International under Lion Ajayi as an Administrative Secretary before she joined the Ogun State Civil Service on September 1st 1987 as a Community Development Officer.

In 1990, she was sponsored for a Post Graduate Diploma course in Integrated Development at the Pan African Institute of Development, Bua, Cameroon where she graduated as the best student in Small and Medium Scale Entrepreneur Development. While in Cameroon, the Department of Better Life and Women Affairs established, Selimot was seconded from the Ministry of Community Development as one of the pioneer staffs of the department which later metamorphosed into Commission for Women after the Beijing Conference. She rose through the ranks at the commission working in Zonal offices in Sagamu, Ikenne and Obafemi Owode as the Zonal Coordinator of Better Life/Family Support Program (FSP).

In 1996, the Commission for Women was upgraded to a full fledged ministry (Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development), Selimot was promoted to the position of Director of Family Support Program (FSP), where she worked closely with wives of State Administrators. As a Social Worker, she served in various capacities, from 1999-2008, she was the State UNICEF Focal Officer for Child Protection and Participation, it is worthy of mention that Ogun State was the first state to pass the Child Rights Act into Law, the Ogun State Children Parliament was also vibrant during that period. Between 2008 and 2015, she was the State Program Director UNFPA Gender Development Program.

As a Management staff of the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, she held the position of Director Planning, Research and Statistics and Director Child Development. She attended and organized a lot of workshops and seminars on Gender Issues, Women Empowerment and Child Rights.

In October 2015, Alhaja Selimot Olapeju Ottun was appointed as a Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Culture and Tourism by the former Governor, Senator Ibikunle Amosun (FCA). The Nigerian Drum Festival, now African Drum Festival was initiated and became an annual event in Ogun State during her stay in Ministry of Culture and Tourism. As the Permanent Secretary, she led the Ogun State Cultural Troupe to a lot of competitions within and outside Nigeria which includes the National Festival for Arts and Culture (NAFEST), International Arts and Craft Expo (INAC), UNESCO in Paris (where Ogun State Troupe represented Nigeria) to mention a few. Worthy of note is that the troupe excelled triumphantly in all the competitions.

She also served as the Permanent Secretary, Bureau of Political Affairs and Administration between January 2020 and June 2020.

On 30th June, 2020, Governor of Ogun State, His Excellency Prince Dapo Abiodun (MFR) swore in Alhaja Selimot Olapeju Ottun as the 17th Head of Service of Ogun State.

Alhaja Selimot Olapeju Ottun is a Dedicated Worker, a Trail blazer, a Professional per excellence, a Seasoned Administrator, a Philanthropist and a Practicing Muslim. She comes into her new position with impeccable pedigree and service record. She becomes the fifth and first Muslim woman to occupy the seat of Head of Service since the creation of Ogun State in 1976. She is currently the President of Remo Secondary School Students Association 73/78 set and a member of NASFAT Abeokuta Branch. She is married to Mr. Bashir Ottun, a retired Principal and blessed with children.

In her leisure time, she enjoys dancing, reading, singing and humanitarian services.